

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 01278 311146Z

ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /021 W

-----056987 312232Z /73

R 301941Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2665

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 1278

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PA

SUBJ: INR STUDY ON STROESSNER'S PARAGUAY

REF: REPORT NO. 932, MARCH 9, 1978

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO COMMEND JIM BUCHANAN OF INR FOR HIS EXCELLENT REPORT "STROESSNER'S PARAGUAY: AUTHORITARIAN RULE AND HUMAN RIGHTS." THE REPORT IS BALANCED, ACCURATE AND CAPTURES THE ESSENTIALS OF THE PARAGUAYAN POLITICAL SCENE. AN OUTSTANDING JOB.

2. EMBASSY OFFERS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS. IN OUR VIEW THE PAPER MAY SLIGHTLY OVERPLAY THE MONOLITHIC NATURE OF THE REGIME. WHILE STROESSNER IS A DICTATOR TO WHOM ALL MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE ARE REFERRED FOR DECISIONS, HE STILL MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE VIEW OF THE VENERABLE LEADERSHIP OF THE COLORADO PARTY, AND OF SENIOR MILITARY LEADERS. CONVERSELY, THE PAPER DOES NOT GIVE AS MUCH WEIGHT AS WE WOULD TO THE CORRUPTION PERMEATING THE REGIME AND PARAGUAYAN SOCIETY AS A WHOLE. OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY HAS SHAKEN GOVERNMENTAL LEADERS BECAUSE IT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO DEPRIVE THEM OF A PRIMARY TOOL WHICH THEY USE TO KEEP THE PEOPLE COWED WHILE THEY STEAL MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. THIS CORRUPTION HAS REACHED SUCH AN EXTENT THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, EVEN IF THE EXECUTIVE LOOSENED UP ITS POLITICAL CONTROL OVER THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM, THE LATTER WOULD STILL FAIL TO PERFORM ADEQUATELY BECAUSE OF THE CORRUPTION OF JUDGES, LAWYERS, AND LITIGANTS.

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WHITE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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